

Children's Oncology Camp Foundation

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EXHIBIT 1 B0H
DATE 2-19-09
HB HB599

February 19, 2009

Dear Members of the Montana Legislature,

This letter comes to you in support of H.B. 599 sponsored by Rep. Robin Hamilton.

Our organization has been providing cost-free medically supervised programs for cancer patients at our facility in Western Montana since 1995. In those years, we've served over 4,500 individuals, many of which participate in our programs while still in the midst of their treatment.

Oral chemotherapy is a form of treatment some of our participants receive and should receive the same insurance coverage consideration as IV chemotherapy treatments. Cancer patients and their doctors should be able to consider all treatment options available to them without the primary concern of their decision being influenced by whether or not a particular treatment form will be covered by insurance or not.

Montana patients deserve equitable coverage that allows their doctors to make the right treatment choice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Benton

Director of Marketing & Special Events
Adult Cancer Retreat Coordinator

February 19, 2009

Representative Wilson, Chair

House Business and Labor Committee

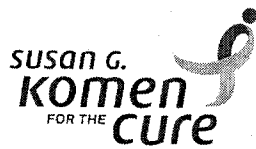
House Bill 599

Chairman Wilson and Members of the Committee,

Good afternoon. My name is Rita McDonald and I live on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in southeastern Montana. I am a 7 year survivor of colorectal cancer. I want to urge you to vote to pass the HB599. When I did my chemotherapy we had to drive the 200 mile round trip many, many weeks. If it had been possible to have received my chemotherapy orally, and have the same coverage by my insurance company as the IV therapy, it would have been made a huge difference in my condition. Living in this frontier country the health benefits for cancer patients would be a enormous. Really, there should be no discrimination by the health insurance companies between the two therapies. Having had cancer that was treated by injectable chemotherapy and endured the 200 mile a day trip I can only imagine how nice it would have been to be at home resting all those days instead of being on the road.

The fact is that patients treated with oral medication have a 2/3 reduction in hospital time and a 50% reduction in medication for IV chemotherapy side effects. Therefore it only makes good sense for the health insurance companies to make the oral medication available on the same basis as the IV treatment. They should be equally accessible. Once again, please vote to pass House Bill 599.

Respectfully, Rita McDonald



Montana
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www.komenmontana.org

February 19, 2009

Representative Bill Wilson, Chairperson
House Business and Labor Committee
Montana State Capital
Helena, MT

Representative Wilson and Committee Members:

The Montana Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure offers its' support for HB 599.

The Montana Affiliate shares the desire to ensure that all Montana women diagnosed with breast cancer, and other cancers, have access to high quality treatment. Current methods of payment offering decreased reimbursement, for orally administered chemotherapeutic agents as compared to intravenous administration of medications, present a significant barrier to patients receiving cancer care in Montana. Komen Montana supports those measures where all women diagnosed with breast cancer have access to high quality treatment.

Komen Montana encourages Committee Members to offer their support for HB 599.

Sincerely;

Kim Alexandre Powell

Kim Alexandre Powell
Volunteer
Komen Montana Affiliate

Three simple steps to early detection are regular mammograms, clinical exams and breast self-exams.